

A pharmaceutical crop or industrial crop is a plant that has been genetically engineered to produce a medical or industrial product, including human and veterinary drugs. Many of the novel substances produced in pharmaceutical crops and industrial crops are for particular medical or industrial purposes only. These substances are not intended to be incorporated in food or to be spread into the environment. That would be equivalent to allowing a prescription drug in the food supply. Experts acknowledge that contamination of human food and animal feed is inevitable due to the inherent imprecision of biological and agricultural systems. This contamination by pharmaceutical crops and industrial crops pose substantial liability and other economic risks to farmers, grain handlers, and food companies.

This bill requires that all genetically engineered foods follow a strenuous food safety review process and attempts to prevent contamination of our food supply by pharmaceutical and industrial crops:

Require the FDA to screen all genetically engineered foods through the current food additive process to ensure they are safe for human consumption, yet continues FDA discretion in applying the safety factors that are generally recognized as appropriate.

Require that unique concerns regarding genetically engineered foods be explicitly examined in the review process, a phase-out of antibiotic resistance markers, and a prohibition on known allergens and requires the FDA to conduct a public comment period of at least 30 days.

Place a temporary moratorium on pharmaceutical crops and industrial crops until all required regulations put forth by this bill with regard to these crops are in effect.

Place a permanent moratorium on pharmaceutical crops and industrial crops grown in an open-air environment and on pharmaceutical crops and industrial crops grown in a commonly used food source.

Require the United States Department of Agriculture to establish a tracking system to regulate the growing, handling, transportation, and disposal of all pharmaceutical and industrial crops and their byproducts to prevent contamination.

Call on the National Academy of Sciences to submit to Congress a report that explores alternative methods to produce pharmaceuticals or industrial chemicals that have the advantage of being conducted in controlled production facilities and do not present the risk of contamination.

THE GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FARMER PROTECTION ACT

Agribusiness and biotechnology companies have rapidly consolidated market power at the same time as the average farmer's profits and viability have significantly declined. Policies promoted by biotech corporations have systematically acted to remove basic farmer rights enjoyed since the beginning of agriculture. These policies include unreasonable seed contracts, the intrusion into everyday farm operations, and liability burdens. The introduction of genetically engineered crops has also created obstacles for farmers, including the loss of markets and increased liability concerns. To mitigate the abuses upon farmers, a clear set of farmer rights must be established.

Furthermore, biotech companies are selling a technology that is being commercialized far

in advance of the new and unknown science of genetic engineering. Farmers may suffer from crop failures, neighboring farmers may suffer from cross pollination, increased insect resistance, and unwanted "volunteer" genetically engineered plants, and consumers may suffer from health and environmental impacts. Therefore, biotech companies should be found liable for the failures of genetically engineered crops.

This bill provides several farmer rights and protections to maintain the opportunity to farm and ensures that the creator of the technology assumes all liability:

Farmers may save seeds and seek compensation for failed genetically engineered crops.

Biotech companies may not: shift liability to farmers; nor require access to farmer's property; nor mandate arbitration; nor mandate court of jurisdiction; nor require damages beyond actual fees; nor charge more to American farmers for use of this technology, than they charge farmers in other nations, or any other unfair condition.

Seed companies must: ensure seeds labeled non-GE are accurate; provide clear instructions to reduce cross-pollination, which contaminates other fields; and inform farmers of the risks of using genetically engineered crops.

The EPA is required to evaluate the concern of Bt resistant pests and take actions necessary to prevent resistance to Bt, an important organic pesticide.

The bill prohibits genetic engineering designed to produce sterile seeds and loan discrimination based on the choice of seeds an agricultural producer uses.

The bill places all liability from negative impacts of genetically engineered organisms squarely upon the biotechnology companies that created the genetically engineered organism.

Farmers are granted indemnification to protect them from the liabilities of biotech companies.

The bill prohibits any transfer of liability away from the biotechnology companies that created the genetically engineered organism.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. HOBSON. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the February 2008 New Republican Earmark Standards Guidance, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman DAVID L. HOBSON.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599.

Provision: Title I, Department of Defense, Military Construction.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Ohio National Guard.

Address of Requesting Entity: 2825 West Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789.

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$12,800.00 to fund acceleration of construction of a facility to relocate the Ohio Air National Guard's 269th Combat Communications Squadron and 251st Combat Communications

Group to another part of the Springfield, Ohio, Air National Guard Base. The current 25-year-old facility is obsolete and places severe restrictions on the ability to perform equipment maintenance and conduct training operations. It does not comply with existing codes and has excessive operations and maintenance costs. The current building can be reused for other functions but cannot be made functionally adequate for the communications mission.

CONGRATULATING MR. AND MRS. GIOVANNI AND LINA DEL SIGNORE ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Mr. and Mrs. Giovanni and Lina Del Signore, who on March 9, 2008 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Giovanni and Lina both grew up in Italy, where they met, and decided to marry in the spring of 1958. Just one week after the wedding Giovanni left his hometown and wife to pursue a future in the United States. Four years later, Lina was finally able to join her husband in Michigan, and in 1963, the couple opened DiGiovanni's Pizza in Livonia, Michigan. Today the Giovannis are the proud owners of the Laurel Manor Banquet and Conference Center, which has been a family affair since its opening in 1988.

While their restaurant business prospered, John and Lina have made time for their loving family they have built together. Over the years, they have been blessed with four beautiful children, Constantino, Luciano, Nazzrena, and Renata. In subsequent years each of their children went on to assist their parents in continuing the tradition of quality and hospitality within the community.

Madam Speaker, this year John and Lina returned to Italy to renew their vows and celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Today, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating them on this spectacular milestone and sending our best wishes for many more years of happiness.

ON THE BIRTH OF MADELYN CLAIRE KAPLAN AND AINSLEY ELIZABETH KAPLAN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am happy to congratulate my friend Andrew Kaplan and his wife Danleigh Kaplan of Washington on the birth of their new twin girls. Madelyn Claire Kaplan and Ainsley Elizabeth Kaplan were born on July 27, 2008 weighing 5 pounds 2 ounces and 5 pounds 8 ounces respectively. Madelyn and Ainsley have been born into a loving home where they will be raised by parents who are devoted to their well-being and bright future.

I am so excited for this new addition to the Kaplan family. On behalf of my wife Roxanne,